

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 A-01 PER-05 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /125 W

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R 021311Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8775

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4910

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET US

SUBJ: SPECULATION ON VACANT AMBASSADORSHIP

REF: ADDIS 3465

1. IN GENERAL OVER LAST MONTH SPECULATION OVER US ROLE IN ETHIOPIAN EFFERVESCENCE HAS DECLINED. HOWEVER, THERE IS SPECULATION ABOUT US-ETHIOPIAN TIES, MUCH OF IT FOCUSSED ON ABSENCE OF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. BROAD RANGE OF ETHIOPIANS, AS WELL AS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, INTERPRETING AMBASSADOR MCELHINEY'S INABILITY ASSUME POST AND FAILURE TO DATE ASSIGN REPLACEMENT AS INDICATION OF USG "WITHDRAWAL" FROM ETHIOPIA.

2. THERE IS, OF COURSE, MORE THAN ONE THEORY IN RELATION TO THIS VACANT AMBASSADORSHIP. SOME EXAMPLES ARE: (A) US AMBASSADOR ALWAYS ABSENT WHEN US-INSTIGATED PLOTS UNFOLD; (B) USG DOUBTS ENDALKACHEW WILL SURVIVE POLITICALLY AND IT THUS MINIMIZING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS CABINET; (C) DUE PHASE-DOWN OF KAGNEW AND IEG BREAK WITH ISRAEL, USG LOSING INTEREST IN ETHIOPIA; (D) NO ONE WILL ACCEPT POST UNTIL DUST SETTLES.

3. WHILE WE ATTEMPTING COUNTERACT CONCEPT THAT "USG NOT BOTHERING SEND AMBASSADOR", WE DOUBT THIS FEELING, WHICH ALSO FOUND IN FAIRLY HIGH CIRCLES, WILL DIMINISH UNTIL NEW AMBASSADOR NAMED.

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WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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